



Cowden

Distance: 5.3 km=3.3 miles

easy walking

Region: Kent, East Sussex

Date written: 27-jun-2010

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Date revised: 26-oct-2016

Refreshments: Cowden

Map: Explorer 147 (Sevenoaks)

Problems, changes? We depend on your feedback: feedback@fancyfreewalks.org

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Village, woodland, water, green meadows

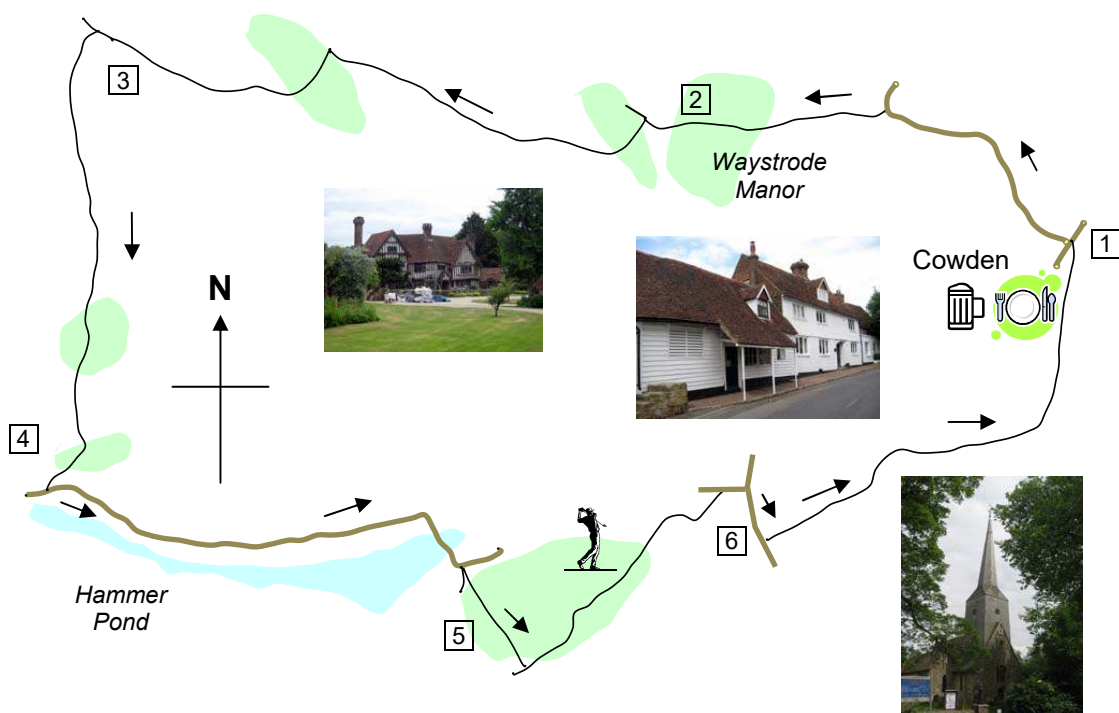
In Brief

This easy short circular walk takes you from the West Kent village of Cowden round some of the gentle pastures and back alongside the Hammer Pond and through woodland.



The terrain is easy, with only one stile, and any kind of sensible clothing and footwear will be fine. Your dog can come too.

The walk begins in the centre of **Cowden** (postcode **TN8 7JE** grid ref TQ465404), near Edenbridge, Kent. For more details, see at the end of this text (→ **Getting There**).



The Walk

For more information about Cowden and its church, see another walk in this series: "Hever and Cowden".

- 1 Coming from the church down the main street, turn **right** into North Street which soon becomes Spode Lane. After ½ km, where the lane bends right, keep straight ahead on the drive to Waystrode Manor, passing this historic building on your left. (*For further details, see another walk "Hever and Cowden" in this series.*) Where the drive bends left, go through the right-hand of two wooden gates ahead, along a rooty path, down steps and onto a woodland path.
- 2 In 50m, at a junction with a post and yellow arrows, take the **left** fork leading through woods of wild garlic, on a long bridge over a stream. *Note that you are on the Sussex Border Path (SBP), a long-distance path round all the land borders of both Sussexes.* On entering a meadow, keep ahead up the centre of the grass, through a gap in trees and straight across the next meadow. In a patch of woodland, turn **left** as indicated to emerge into another green meadow. Go along the right-hand side, through a strip of woodland, through a small metal gate beside a large metal gate and up the left-hand side of the next meadow. Half way along, go **left** through a small metal gate and keep ahead on the left-hand side of a meadow, thus leaving the SBP, with great views behind.
- 3 After a gap, walk the length of the next meadow. In the far corner, go through a band of trees, through a small metal gate and keep tightly to the right-hand side of the next flowery meadow. After passing a large clump of trees on your left, continue down the meadowside. Go over a stile and across the centre of a much smaller meadow past a house on your left, through a modern kissing gate, down steps and **right** on a tarmac driveway. At the bottom, by a house called *Pondtail Rough*, turn sharp **left** on a lane.
- 4 For some distance, on your right you can see the Furnace Pond, an elongated stretch of water, indicating the importance of the iron industry in past times. Ducks and other waterfowl are seen here in profusion. On your left soon you pass some caves, later a bench seat carved in the sandstone. After a total of 700m on the lane, it bends right over a sluice, passing *Furnace Mill* on your left, entering East Sussex. Where the lane bends left, go ahead through a wooden barrier into the woodland of Holtye Common.
- 5 Immediately take the **left** fork, avoiding the muddy horse path, slightly uphill. There is a small patch of mud, but it quickly clears. At the top, go watchfully over a strip of grass used by golfers. On meeting a crossing wide sandy bridleway, turn **left** on it, going across another strip of grass and keeping close to the trees on your right. The path runs through woodland and, after 300m, descends and finally comes down to a lane. Turn **right** on the lane and in 50m, at a road junction, turn **right**.
- 6 In 80m, turn **left** on a signed footpath. The path goes through a small wooden gate, along the bottom of a small meadow and through a large wooden gate at the corner under some trees. Keep straight ahead, looking out for golfers. Cross the green, passing just to the right of a long clump of trees. At this point, a wide golfers' bridge comes suddenly into view. Go straight over this bridge and keep ahead in the same direction across the greens into the far corner, with a stream (Kent Water) on your right, now in

Kent again. Now keep ahead on a wide grassy path, still with the stream on your right. In 300m, you pass another small tee on your right and meet a 3-way fingerpost. Turn **left**, going through a wooden gate and ahead on an enclosed path, over a tarmac drive, straight up through allotments, past a wooden gate, up a grassy path and **left** into the village by the church.



For refreshments, "The Fountain" (Harveys) a friendly pub-restaurant with a big garden is on your right.

Getting there

By car: park prettily in a side road of Cowden. The village is signposted from the B2026 south of Edenbridge.

By bus: route 234 from Tunbridge Wells or Edenbridge, not Sunday (check the timetables).

Not by train: note that Cowden Station is 2 km=1½ miles from the village and is therefore *not* a suitable start (but see the *Markbeech* walk in this series).

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